

TITLES OF CERTAIN OFFICES AND DEPARTMENTS OF
INSTRUCTION AT THE UNITED STATES MILITARY
ACADEMY

APRIL 7 (legislative day, MARCH 30), 1942.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. HILL, from the Committee on Military Affairs, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S. 2422]

The Senate Committee on Military Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (S. 2422) to authorize the Secretary of War to designate the titles of certain offices and departments of instruction in the United States Military Academy, having considered the same, report favorably thereon with recommendation that it do pass.

The purpose of the bill is to provide the Secretary of War with the necessary authority to change the titles of the heads of the departments of the United States Military Academy to correspond to the names of the departments which they severally head. The Secretary of War now has authority to change the names of the various departments when it seems necessary or desirable. The Secretary cannot, however, without additional authority, change the titles of the professors without congressional authority. For obvious reasons it is desirable to have the title of the professor coincide with the name of the department which he heads. It is also highly desirable that the name of the department and the title of its professor at the United States Military Academy coincide with the term in common usage describing a similar department or professor in other colleges and universities.

One example to indicate the problem involved and the need for the legislation: The professor of chemistry, mineralogy, and geology is the head of the department of chemistry and electricity. He is a professor of mineralogy and geology which he does not teach, yet he teaches the important subject of electricity, in which he is not a professor.

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Evidence was introduced to indicate that the legislation had the approval of the Superintendent of the United States Military Academy and the unanimous approval of the academic board.

The bill as prepared does not prejudice any accrued rights of the incumbent heads of the departments.

The enactment of this legislation does not require the appropriation of additional funds.

The War Department recommendation follows:

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington, March 28, 1942.

Hon. ROBERT R. REYNOLDS,
Chairman, Committee on Military Affairs,
United States Senate.

DEAR SENATOR REYNOLDS: There is enclosed herewith draft of a bill to authorize the Secretary of War to designate the titles of certain offices and departments of instruction at the United States Military Academy which the War Department recommends be enacted into law.

The Secretary of War now has authority to change the names of the various academic departments of the United States Military Academy by administrative action. Recently the War Department has changed the names of four of the academic departments in order that the names would convey an adequate idea of the courses of instruction actually given. One example is the department of natural and experimental philosophy, so named in 1812, which has been renamed department of mechanics.

It is highly desirable for obvious reasons to have the titles of the heads of departments in accord with the titles of the department which they respectively direct. Since these titles are a matter of the commissions that they respectively hold, they cannot be changed without legislation. As one example, the present head of the department of mechanics carries the title of professor of natural and experimental philosophy.

The purpose of the proposed legislation is to provide the Secretary of War with the necessary authority to change the titles of the heads of the departments of the United States Military Academy to correspond to the names of the departments which they severally head. The proposed legislation, as drafted, does not prejudice the accrued rights of the incumbent heads of departments.

The enactment of this legislation will not require appropriation of additional funds.

The Bureau of the Budget advises that there is no objection to the submission of this proposed legislation for the consideration of the Congress.

Sincerely yours,

HENRY L. STIMSON,
Secretary of War.

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